

Submitted by Fred Cox  
Public Comments  
1/6/2015 Regular Council Mtg.

Representatives and Senators, [PRC members]

re: the Draper Prison, Uinta Five Reception and Orientation building along with the Oquirrh Five Annex and all of Wasatch.

Based on information provided to me by constituents in my area that work at the Draper Prison, I believe at minimum, the listed buildings need to be replaced at Draper. They could be replaced on site, as there seems to be enough room to double or triple the number of beds at Draper, or possibly targeted to be replaced off site, at a new prison location, such as near the Wal-Mart Distribution Center near Stansbury Mountain, in Tooele County. Based on the report, there is enough room for Gunnison to match Draper in beds as it is currently. An alternate or 3rd site is not required.

I was wondering if we have a specific cost for constructing each of these 3 complexes and if the Draper Prison can function in place without any or all of these 3 buildings. Clearly, the buildings can be built on site and then these specific existing buildings can be demolished.

It is the opinion of many that the majority of the buildings at the Draper Prison, other than these, can function for many years, if not decades.

Any new cell complex should at least have the safety of layout of the 192 bed pods at Gunnison. From an aerial photo, it appears a large percentage of the beds at Draper are in the pod or super pod type layout with the central control station.

I have stood in Wasatch, in one of the active cell block common areas with my wife. I don't like that layout. We spent two years as volunteers at the Draper Prison. It was interesting to use the non-denominational chapel that I had worked on the drawings for many years ago.

While it has been many years since I worked on construction drawings for jails and prisons, I helped with the construction drawings for a Salt Lake County Jail expansion/remodel down town (later demolished), Oxbow, Gunnison, and using the 192 bed pod system, perhaps a dozen potential 1920 bed complexes around the country. At one point, I perhaps had drawn more parking spaces and jail/prison cells than anyone I knew in the State.

Based on the information I have now, I would not have voted to move the prison when voted on last year. I realize Draper City is tired of having the prison and the property around it is getting worth more and so the State may want to move it sometime in the next few decades.

<http://fredcox4utah.blogspot.com/2014/02/do-not-move-prison.html>

Since the timeline for moving has not be agreed to by the legislature, finding out from the Prison or your consultant the cost of replacing only the 3 complexes mentioned would be helpful for direction and discussion.

For many years, anyone moving near the Draper Prison has known it was there. It would be wise if the prison is to be moved, for residents to have many years to know it is moving and where it is moving to, long before it does.

Fred C. Cox,

Rep. Elect, House 30

West Valley City, UT 84120

PS, based on me being at the West Jordan school where they had as many as 2,500 people show up opposed to the prison moving near there, and other similar reports, I don't believe any of the current 6 sites will work.

They may be close for employees, visitors, volunteers, schools, courts, and medical, but the Draper location has those already. Those items are more important than the cost of the land in Draper, as the people involved are worth more than the buildings and the land. Again, the majority of the buildings at Draper are fine, with no rush to replace. We do need to target replacing particularly the Wasatch block cells for prison officer and inmate safety, in my opinion.

## My view: Shouldn't taxpayers have the final say in the prison relocation decision?

By Gary Thornock For the Deseret News  
Published: Thursday, July 11 2013 12:00 a.m. MDT



The Utah State Prison and surrounding area in Salt Lake County Friday, March 8, 2013. (Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News)

The Legislature has funded and the governor has staffed a committee to review proposals to move the Utah state prison out of the Salt Lake Valley (2013 SB0072 Prison Relocation and Development Amendments). Both parties should immediately bring this process to a halt as a waste of taxpayer dollars. The community as a whole has already raised concerns sufficient to show this proposal to be without merit and only in the interest of moneyed developers.

Here are some of the major concerns

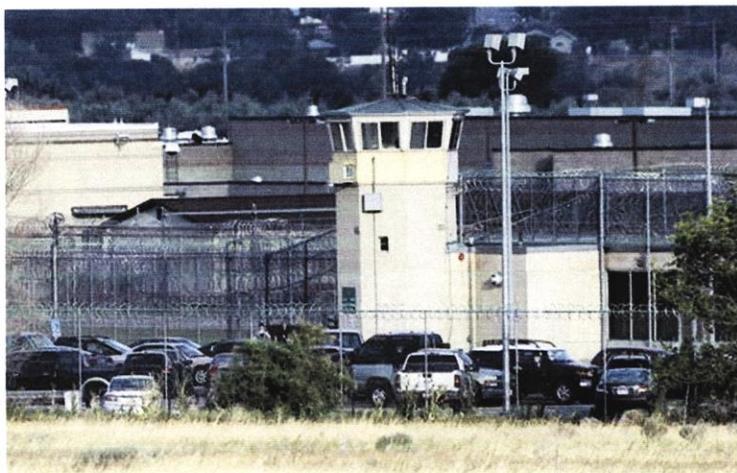
expressed within our communities:

- The expenditure of \$600 million in tax revenue to replace a facility that could continue to serve the state for a significant time with improvements costing 5-10 percent of that amount. This expenditure has no apparent benefit that would justify the cost.

- Loss of reasonable availability to families wishing to visit incarcerated relatives and friends.

- Distancing the prison from required medical (hospitals and doctors) and legal (courts and lawyers) services with the accompanying cost increases.

- Loss of reasonable availability for thousands of community and religious service volunteers that provide transitional support for inmates. Such loss may well result in an increase in recidivism.



The Utah State Prison, Tuesday, July 9, 2013. (Ravell Call, Deseret News)

- Distancing inmates from educational opportunities within the valley that are made available to aid

in their rehabilitation.

- Additional difficulty in staffing a prison where employment would require a daily round trip commute of over a hundred miles for employees based upon the proposal to use Rush Valley as the new location.



The Utah State Prison, Tuesday, July 9, 2013. (Ravell Call, Deseret News)

- A significant increase in air pollution due to the transportation requirements for all members of the community serving the needs of the prison.

The justification for the move as touted by proponents is that a major technology center could be built that would net the state an additional \$300 million in tax revenue over a period of many years. These same individuals have seemingly closed their eyes to the reality that there are thousands of acres of available land that could be developed for a technology center both

north and south of the existing prison. Anyone driving north along the Mountain View Corridor or south on Redwood Road from Camp Williams to Lehi and Eagle Mountain would be impressed with the amount of land available for future development. These areas seem to have satisfied the needs of technology providers such as Adobe and the National Security Agency and could do so for other developers without taxpayer involvement.

If the governor and the Legislature feel an overwhelming need to increase our taxes for a spending binge, they might look again at the dismal state of our education system and find a way to provide additional funding for our universities, which have imposed student tuition increases that far exceed the general cost of living increases. This has created a situation where our children must fund their education with student debt that burdens them for years after graduation.



The Utah State Prison and surrounding area in Salt Lake County Friday, March 8, 2013. (Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret News)

The governor and the leaders in our Legislature should move forward immediately in the stewardship awarded them by the community and bring an end to this seriously flawed proposal. Please respond to the needs and best interests of the public and not to the interest of the moneyed developers.

*Gary Thornock is a retired accountant and former delegate to state and county conventions.*